

THE JERUSALEM POST

Erwin Frankel Editor and Managing Director... Founded in 1932 by the late GERSHON AGRON...

Carrot-and-stick to adapt education to needs

SAM LEHMAN-WILZIG argues that the government should make more efficient use of universities to train and direct skilled manpower for labour-short fields.

A CONSTANT problem in the Israeli economy is the shortage of skilled labour in high-technology and high-export industries...

The government is moving in the right direction in its attempts to inculcate into our high school students the worth, dignity, and national need for physical labour...

Using the "carrot" approach, the government could lower (or in certain very high priority vocations, eliminate altogether) the tuition fees for students willing to enter those fields which show present and/or future manpower shortages...

THE MOST natural and cost-effective place to start is the university system, where the worker-to-be is educated and trained for his future vocation...

The initial step would be to set up a permanent National Commission comprising distinguished individuals from the academic world, business, labour, and government...

Second, and alternatively, the government could offer a variation of the optional tuition plan currently in use at Yale University...

The government in turn, through the Education Ministry, would inaugurate a series of incentive and disincentive programmes under the universities' auspices...

One would hardly think so.

Dry Bones



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Keeping watch on Hussein

THE VISIT of Yasser Arafat in Amman yesterday for meetings with King Hussein is the second such consultation in recent weeks.

In the last few weeks we have also heard some Israeli officials, like Interior Minister Burg, and even Egyptian President Sadat, suggest that there is tangible reason to believe that Hussein will soon bring Jordan into the autonomy negotiations.

The juxtaposition of these two developments should make it plain however, that these fond hopes about Hussein joining the peace process are unfounded.

And only this week Jordan's Prime Minister Mudar Badran told his parliament that the reports of Jordan's possible participation in the autonomy talks were groundless.

Speculation about the significance of Arafat's meetings with Hussein must therefore follow an entirely different path...

Presumably he will also not be tempted to accede to any Arafat blandishments that could turn Jordan into a new base for terrorism.

Overdue bill

THE LONG-PROMISED — and long-delayed — Pensions Bill is at last long to be tabled in the Knesset.

A major reason for the late emergence of this vital measure has been opposition by the Treasury, both under the Alignment and lately under the Likud.

As against this (doubtless overstated) fear there was the promise of increased labour mobility.

One powerful argument for a standardized system is that it would cut costs of personnel, premises and overheads.

Greater benefits mean greater monthly contributions, and that may come as a shock to persons in casual employment.

They must take comfort from the knowledge that they are insuring themselves against poverty in old age.

They will never fall a burden to their families or to the community.

READERS' LETTERS

CONSERVATIVE JUDAISM

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post Sir, — A recent public statement signed by the two Chief Rabbis of Jerusalem calls for some comment.

One respectfully suggests that the Chief Rabbis of Jerusalem direct their concern elsewhere; for example they might declare the stoning of cars on Shabbat not alone a patent violation of Halacha...

CONTINUITY OF JUDAISM

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post Sir, — Your book critic, Shalom J. Kahn, abandoning logic and good sense, is certainly carried away in his review of Professor David Flusser's recent books.

While it is legitimate to recognize Jesus as a Jew in the ethnic sense — although hardly noticed in his own generation, which was dominated by such spiritual giants among legitimate Jewish leaders as Hillel and Shammai...

OIL FOR ISRAEL

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post Sir, — Shmuel Katz has correctly analysed not only President Carter's dilemma (August 24), but our own as well.

INSULT TO HALACHA

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post Sir, — As an Orthodox rabbi, I wish to express my indignation at the ruling of the chief rabbis of Jerusalem that a person who hears the blowing of the shofar in a Conservative synagogue has not fulfilled his obligation.

Halacha is sacred to me. It obligates me to protest in the strongest terms against its misrepresentation and its ugly misuse for purposes of foolish "religious" politics.

WRONG TARGET

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post Sir, — Paye Schenk writes (August 21) that my report on the Soviet Jews in Berlin is noxious, outrageous and obscene.

I suppose it was naive of me to hope that my report would arouse such fury in Israel that every Israeli, indeed every Jew, and all government and public parties including the U.J.A. would immediately begin an all-out campaign to make Israel the free choice of Soviet Jews who are not running away from Judaism.

LEAVING YAMIT

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post Sir, — We should like to take issue with certain statements made in Harry Wall's article, "The price for paradise" (September 7).

ESPERANTO TOURIST

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post Sir, — I have just returned from a wonderful visit to Israel. Although I do not know Hebrew, I was fortunate enough to be able to communicate with the local people, whom I had met previously at various Esperanto congresses.

DEPOSED LEADER

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post Sir, — On September 7, you published a short notice headed "Cameroun to try deposed leader."

ARCHAEOLOGY OF THE BIBLE

Book by Book by Gesiyah Cornfeld and Prof. D.N. Freedman.

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POSTSCRIPTS

THE REV. ENOCH SASAKA of Nairobi recently completed a summer course along with fellow Africans at the Hebrew University under the auspices of the Israel Interfaith Committee.

"I am convinced that the people here have created a climate of co-existence. In spite of different ethnic groups, the country has done a lot to integrate people."

"Through it is said that living in Israel is a miracle, my addition to this is that the people have been very hardworking. I have come to honour highly the greatest philosopher of the 20th century, Martin Buber, who is noted for his philosophy of dialogue."

"Last month, an elderly bus driver took the trouble to see to it that I glimpsed at the right place. This prompts me to feel the need for dialogue between our African states and Israel. I understand the force that is dividing and ruling the situation, but if we unite, we can overcome."

"I'm very sure this place could be very inspiring to my people in Kenya. I very much envy Israel's knowledge in the fields that I have mentioned."

"Finally, it was my greatest privilege to be a pilgrim, walking in 'my saviour's footsteps.'"

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